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**THE
LAND**

AND



**THE
BOOK**

The Bible contains many references to the land and to man's dependence upon it. Many of these references will be found in the pages of this publication. The verses have been arranged to tell the story of man's stewardship of the soil. There is available a filmstrip in which appropriate pictures illustrate each verse and point up the need to conserve our soil resources. The strip was prepared to meet the demand for material that can be used in church services by ministers or others who realize that the church prospers with the land. The filmstrip may be obtained on loan from the Regional Office of the Soil Conservation Service, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

The Land and The Book



*Through
Scripture*

And

Picture

*Interprets God's Providence And
Provision For Our Material Welfare*

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In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

And the earth was without form and void;....

....and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. *Gen. 1:1, 2.*

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good....

.... and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night.--*Gen. 1:4, 5.* And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together in one place,....

....and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth;.... --*Gen. 1:9, 10.*

....and the gathering together of the waters called He Seas; and God saw that it was good. --*Gen. 1:10*

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life,....

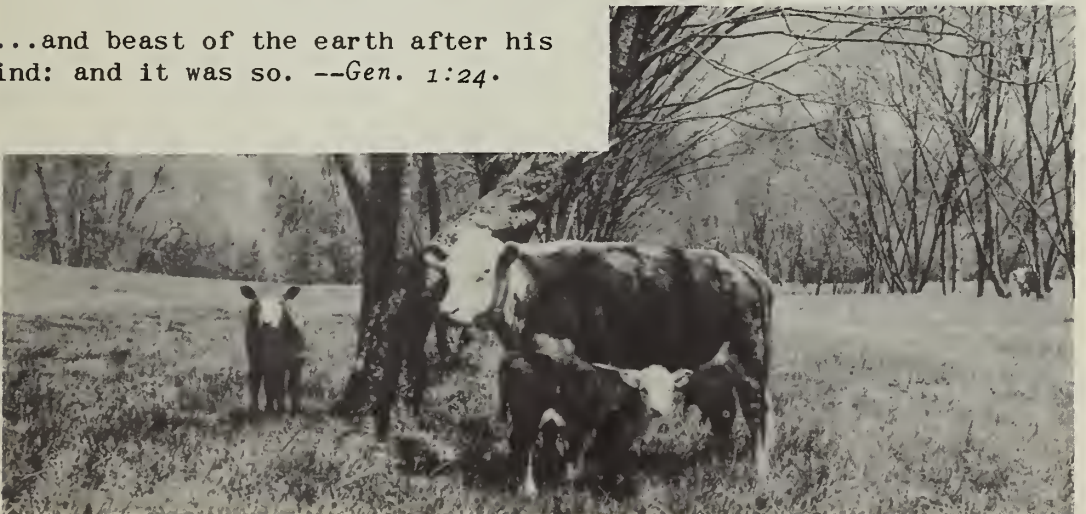
....and fowl that may fly above the earth.... --*Gen. 1:20*

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed,....

....and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind.... --*Gen. 1:11*
And....the living creature after his kind,....

....cattle, and creeping thing,....

....and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. --*Gen. 1:24.*



IT WAS A GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND, FILLED WITH PEACE AND PLENTY

....and there was not a man to till the ground. --*Gen. 2:5*. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him;....

....male and female created He them. --*Gen. 1:27*. And God blessed them, and God said unto them....replenish the earth, and subdue it. *Gen. 1:28*.

And have dominion over....every living thing that moveth upon the earth. --*Gen. 1:28*. And God said, Behold, I have given you....

....every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree bearing seed; to you it shall be for meat. --*Gen. 1:29*.



And to every beast of the earth....I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. --*Gen. 1:30*. And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. --*Gen. 1:31*.

And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden....And....took the man,....

....and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. --*Gen. 2:8, 15*.and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. --*James 5:18*.

IN HIS PRIDE AND IGNORANCE, MAN SINNED AGAINST GOD AND
THE LAND, AND HIS PUNISHMENT WAS POVERTY AND DESOLATION.



Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen;Joel 1:11.they have made my
pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. --Jer. 12:10

....fire hath destroyed the pasture of the wilderness,....

....and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field. --Joel 1:19.

And they....felled all the good trees: --II Kings 3:25.



Woe to the land shadowing with wings....a nation meted out and
trodden down,....

....whose land the rivers have spoiled! --*Isa. 18:1, 2*. Behold, waters....shall be an overflowing flood,



....and shall overflow the land.--*Jer. 47:2*

The waters wear away the stones:....

....wastest away the things which grow out of the dust of the earth and....destroyest the hope of man. --*Job. 14:19*

The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof....all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone. --*Isa. 24:5, 11*.

Drought and heat consume the snow waters: --*Job 24:19*.the waters shall fail from the sea,....the river shall be wasted and dried up. --*Isa. 19:5*.

The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate,....

....the barns are broken down;....

....for the corn is withered. --*Joel 1:17*.

How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; --*Joel 1:18*

Seemeth it a small thing....to have eaten up the good pasture, but ye must also tread down with your feet the residue....

....and to have drunk of the deep waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet? --*Ezek. 34:18.*

Some....said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses,We have borrowed money,....and that upon our lands and vineyards. --*Neh. 5:3, 4.*

Therefore, shall the land mourn,....

....and everyone that dwelleth therein shall languish,....

Hosea 4:3.

The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: --*Isa 24:3.*

....shall become briers and thorns. *Isa. 7:24.*

They forgat God their saviour....
Yea, they despised the pleasant land,....

....they believed not His word: *Psa. 106:21, 24.*

....they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. --*Jer. 12:10.* When the Lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

....The Kingdom of God shall be taken from you. --*Matt. 21:40, 43.*



GOD'S LOVE AND MAN'S LABOR CAN MAKE THE EARTH BRING
FORTH FRUIT AND THE DESERT BLOSSOM AS THE ROSE.

....a sower went forth to sow. --*Matt. 13:3.* Bless, Lord, his sustenance, and accept the work of his hands:.... --*Deut. 33:11.*

He....sowed good seed in his field: --*Matt. 13:24.*

....the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain.... --*Zach. 10:1.*

Then shall the earth yield her increase; --*Psa. 67:6*

....that both he that soweth....

....and he that reapeth may rejoice together. --*John 4:36*

....plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: --*Jer. 31:5*

....plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them. --*Jer. 29:5*. For the seed shall be prosperous;....

....the vine shall give her fruit, and the....

....ground shall give her increase,.... --*Zach. 8:12*

....plant in the wilderness the cedar....and the myrtle, and the oil tree;....set in the desert the fir tree,....



....and the pine, and the box tree together: --*Isa. 41:19*.

....and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. --*Isa. 55:12*

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; --*Psa. 24:1*.

Behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses,....upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: --*Ex. 9:3*

The pastures are clothed with flocks; --*Psa. 65:13*



Great is our Lord....who maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains.
Psa. 147:5, 8.

Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it:....thou waterest the
ridges thereof abundantly:....

....thou blessest the springing thereof. --*Psa. 65:9, 10.*

He filleth thee with the finest of the wheat. --*Psa. 147:14.*

....the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy,
they also sing. --*Psa. 65:13.* Blessed of the Lord be his land....

....for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun....

....and for the precious things of the earth and the fulness thereof.
--*Deut. 33:13, 14, 16.*

TO GROW FOOD FOR ALL NATIONS, MAN MUST COOPERATE WITH GOD
IN CARING FOR HIS HOLY EARTH.

I will....stand beside my father in the field. --*I Sam. 19:3.* For
we are labourers together with God: --*I Cor. 3:9.*

....he that ploweth should plow in hope; --*I Cor. 9:10.*for
his life is taken from the earth. --*Acts 8:33.*

The clods of the valley shall be sweet unto him,.... --*Job* 21:33.

....for he loved husbandry. --*II Chron.* 26:10.

He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: --*Prov.* 28:19.

....thy barns be filled with plenty,....*Prov.* 3:10.

....the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field. --*Eccl.* 5:9.



Fear not, O land, be glad and rejoice.... --*Joel* 2:18, 21.for ye shall be a delightsome land,.... --*Mal.* 3:12

A land which the Lord thy God careth for: --*Deut.* 11:12.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. *Psa.* 23:1, 2.

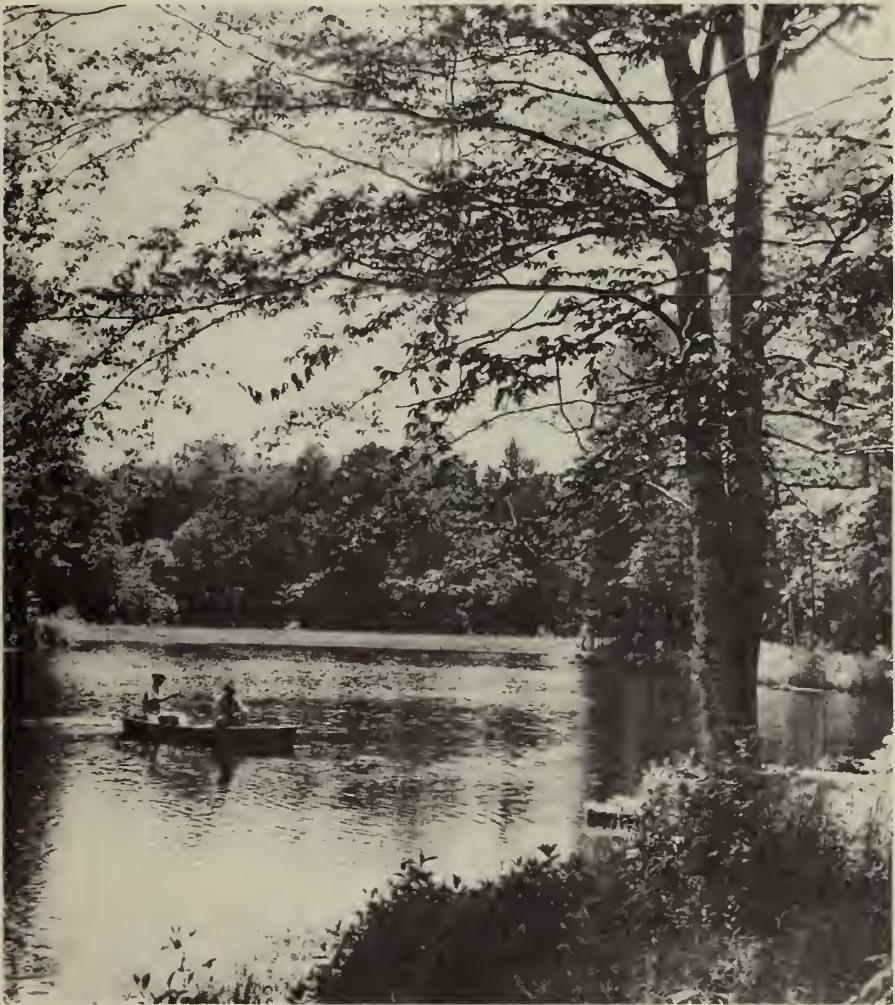
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. --*Isa.* 40:11.

....the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. --*Psa.* 33:5.

....the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud,....

....that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater:
--Isa. 55:10.and the Lord said....While the earth remaineth,....

....seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat,



and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease.
--Gen. 8:21, 22.

....and they shall dwell in their own land. --Jer. 23:8.and they shall till it and dwell therein.--Jer. 27:11. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Fear God and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. --*Eccl. 12:13*.



....No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. --*Luke 9:62*.

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. --*Isa. 40:31*.

....those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.... and their inheritance shall be forever. --*Psa. 37:9, 18*.

PRAYER

TEACH US, O LORD, THAT THIS LAND IS OURS TO BE CARED FOR AS A SOURCE OF LIFE FOR ALL MANKIND. HELP US TO TREAT IT AS A GIFT FROM THEE AND TO TREASURE ITS VITALITY SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS MAY ALSO HAVE THE BENEFITS OF THY PROVIDENCE. IN THY NAME WE PRAY. AMEN.

